A photograph of a bald eagle perched on a thick, dark pine branch. The eagle has a white head and neck, a yellow beak, and dark brown body feathers. It is looking towards the left. The background is a clear, bright blue sky, with the dark green needles of the pine tree framing the scene.

The Tall Pine and the Big Eagle

Written by
Nancy Day, M.A.



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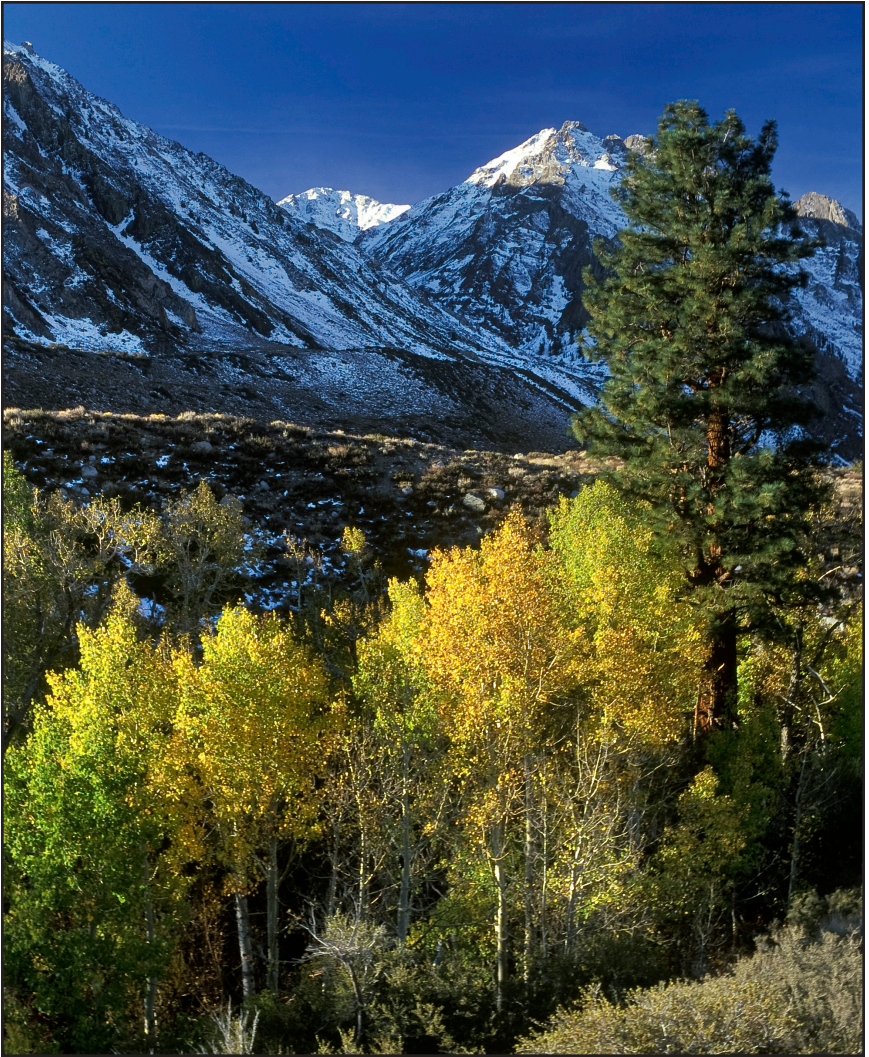
On an autumn day in a California forest,
a pinecone opens. Many seeds come out.
A squirrel eats some of the seeds.



Some seeds blow away. Some seeds sink down in the loose soil. In the spring, a few seedlings push up out of the soil and into the sunlight.



The strongest seedlings grow into saplings. Every year, the sapling's trunk grows taller and a little wider. Its roots grow wider, too. Its branches reach up and out toward the Sun.



Over many years, one sapling grows to be 100 feet tall. It is the tallest pine tree in this forest.



A big bald eagle has a nest at the top of the young tree. Her sharp eyes can see for miles in all directions.



She watches for fish flashing in the river.
Salmon are laying eggs in the shallow water.
She swoops down to catch a salmon with
her feet.



When she was five years old, the bald eagle grew new white feathers on her head and tail. After that, the eagle found a mate. The eagle and her mate built the large nest in the pine tree together.



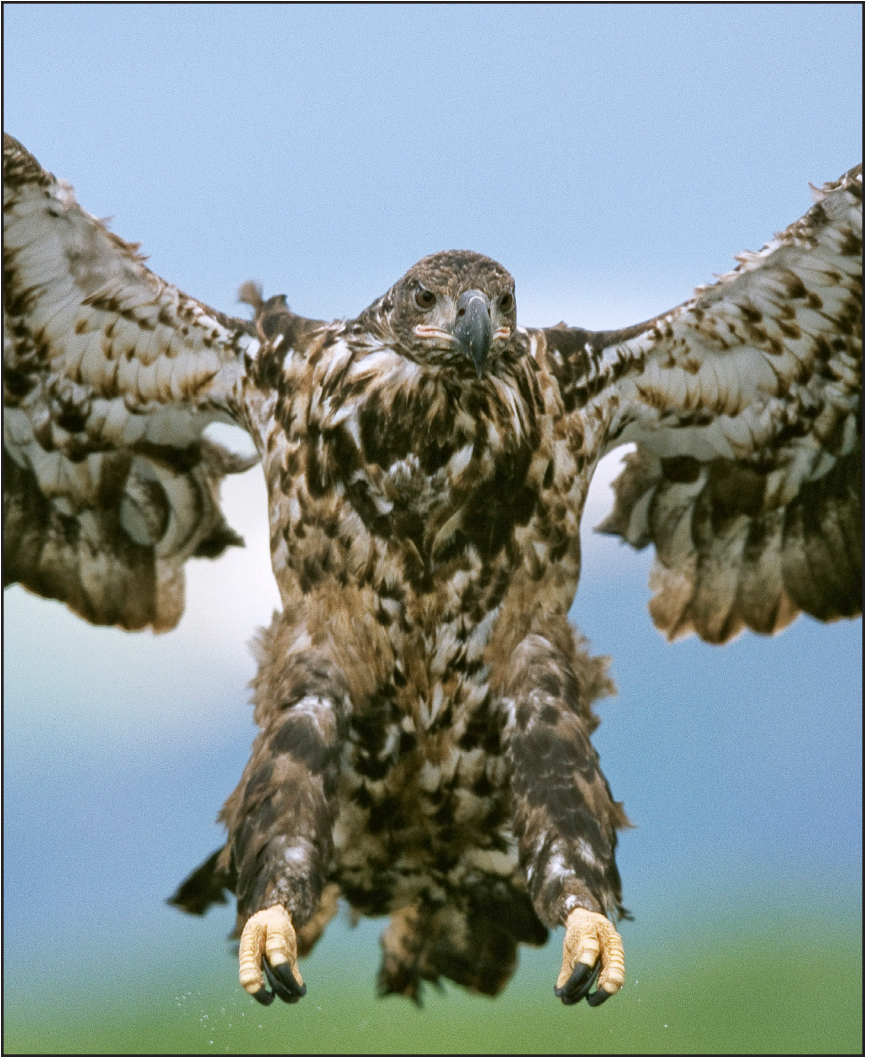
Soon, the eagle laid two eggs in the nest.
She and her mate kept the eggs warm for
more than a month.



One day, two fuzzy, grey hatchlings pecked their way out of the strong shells. The baby eagles wanted food right away.



Their parents have been bringing them food, like salmon, ever since that day.



When summer comes, the eaglets learn to fly from the nest. Their parents teach them how to catch their own fish. Soon, they will grow white feathers on their heads and tails.



When the young eagles get their white feathers, they leave to find mates. They will build their own nests and make their own families.



The eagle will lay more eggs in time. She and her mate will keep them warm. They will feed the new hatchlings just like before.



In the autumn, a pinecone on the big pine tree opens. Many seeds come out. A mouse eats some of the seeds. Some of the seeds blow away. Some sink down into the loose soil.



The seedlings grow toward the Sun by
the river...



...and become saplings. One may become the tallest pine in the forest.



And be just the right place for a young eagle
to make her nest.

Unit Title: **Cycle of Life**

Grade: **2**

Science Standards 2.2.a. and 2.2.b.

Supports ELA Standard: Reading: 2.2.4.

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